

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 114 and 120 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119 and 121 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 108. (Cancelled)

109. (Currently Amended) ~~An information providing method of providing information to a user, comprising:~~ A method of controlling an information processing apparatus accessible to a first database and a second database, the first database storing a plurality of pieces of first information and their properties associated with unique identifiers, and the second database storing a plurality of pieces of second information and their properties, said method comprising:

~~an input step of inputting a code;~~

~~a receiving step of receiving a unique identifier from an external apparatus;~~

~~a first retrieval step of searching [[a]] the first database for the piece of the first information and its property corresponding to the input code received unique identifier and extracting the first information and its properties;~~

~~a determination step of determining a layout for printing the first information extracted in said first retrieval step on a paper sheet;~~

~~a second retrieval step of searching [[a]] the second database for a plurality of pieces of the second information and their properties based on the property of the~~

searched piece of the first information extracting a plurality of pieces of the second information based at least in part on the properties extracted in said first retrieval step;

a setting step of setting a printing priority on each of the searched pieces of the second information based on the properties of the searched pieces of the second information;

a preparation step of preparing a plurality of printing layout examples for printing of the plurality of pieces of the searched pieces of the second information extracted in said second retrieval step to be printed with the searched piece of the first information, each of the printing layout examples including at least one of the searched pieces of the second information based on the printing priorities;

a selection step of selecting~~[[,]]~~ one printing layout example from the plurality of printing layout examples~~; one layout example for printing the second information on the paper sheet;~~ and

~~a printing step of printing the first information and the second information on the paper sheet according to the layout determined in said determination step and the layout example selected in said selection step~~

a creating step of creating printing data for printing the searched piece of the first information and the at least one of the searched pieces of the second information according to the selected printing layout example.

110. (Cancelled)

111. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 109, wherein the properties of the plurality of pieces of the second information include at least one of limitations on printing, term for printing, and opportunities for printing.

112. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 109, wherein the second information contains arbitrary advertisement information.

113. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 109, further comprising a ~~setting~~ step of setting whether the second information is to be printed or not, and wherein said second retrieval step is performed in accordance with the setting.

114. (Cancelled)

115. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication system for providing information to a user, the system comprising:~~ An information processing apparatus accessible to a first database and a second database, the first database storing a plurality of pieces of first information and their properties associated with unique identifiers, and the second database storing a plurality of pieces of second information and their properties, said apparatus comprising:

~~input means for inputting a code;~~

receiving means for receiving a unique identifier from an external apparatus;

first retrieval means for searching ~~[[a]]~~ the first database for the piece of the first information and its property corresponding to the ~~input code~~ received unique identifier and extracting the first information and its properties;

~~determination means for determining a layout for printing the first information extracted by said first retrieval means on a paper sheet;~~

second retrieval means for searching ~~[[a]]~~ the second database for a plurality of pieces of the second information and their properties based on the property of the searched piece of the first information extracting a plurality of pieces of the second information based at least in part on the properties extracted by said first retrieval means;

setting means for setting a printing priority on each of the searched pieces of the second information based on the properties of the searched pieces of the second information;

preparation means for preparing a plurality of printing layout examples for printing of the plurality of pieces of the searched pieces of the second information extracted by said second retrieval means to be printed with the searched piece of the first information, each of the printing layout examples including at least one of the searched pieces of the second information based on the printing priorities;

selection means for selecting~~[[,]]~~ one printing layout example from the plurality of printing layout examples; ~~one layout example for printing the second information on the paper sheet; and~~

~~printing means of printing the first information and the plurality of pieces of the second information on the paper sheet according to the layout determined by said determination means and the layout example selected by said selection means~~

creating means for creating printing data for printing the searched piece of the first information and the at least one of the searched pieces of the second information according to the selected printing layout example.

116. (Cancelled)

117. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 115, wherein the properties of the plurality of pieces of the second information are registered and comprise at least one of limitations on printing, term for printing, and opportunities for printing.

118. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 115, wherein the second information contains arbitrary advertisement information.

119. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 115, further comprising ~~a setting~~ means for setting whether the second information is to be printed or not, and wherein said second retrieval means performs in accordance with the setting.

120. (Cancelled)

121. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores computer-executable program code for ~~providing information to a user~~ controlling an information processing apparatus accessible to a first database and a second database,

the first database storing a plurality of pieces of first information and their properties associated with unique identifiers, and the second database storing a plurality of pieces of second information and their properties, the program code comprising:

an input step of inputting a code;

a receiving step of receiving a unique identifier from an external apparatus;

a first retrieval step of searching [[a]] the first database for the piece of the first information and its property corresponding to the input code received unique identifier and extracting the first information and its properties;

a determination step of determining a layout for printing the first information extracted in said first retrieval step on a paper sheet;

a second retrieval step of searching [[a]] the second database for a plurality of pieces of the second information and their properties based on the property of the searched piece of the first information extracting a plurality of pieces of the second information based at least in part on the properties extracted in said first retrieval step;

a setting step of setting a printing priority on each of the searched pieces of the second information based on the properties of the searched pieces of the second information;

a preparation step of preparing a plurality of printing layout examples for printing of the plurality of pieces of the searched pieces of the second information extracted in said second retrieval step to be printed with the searched piece of the first information, each of the printing layout examples including at least one of the searched pieces of the second information based on the printing priorities;

a selection step of selecting<sup>11</sup> one printing layout example from the plurality of printing layout examples; ~~one layout example for printing the second information on the paper sheet; and~~

~~a printing step of printing the first information and the second information on the paper sheet according to the layout determined in said determination step and the layout example selected in said selection step~~

a creating step of creating printing data for printing the searched piece of the first information and the at least one of the searched pieces of the second information according to the selected printing layout example.